

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

1. (Currently Amended) A pipe fusion machine for fusing sections of pipe to form a pipeline, comprising:

(a) a fusing mechanism; and

(b) a cleaning mechanism for cleaning debris from the external surface of the sections of pipe prior to fusion of the same, said cleaning mechanism comprising

- a first discus plate having a top and bottom surface,

- a second discus plate having a top and bottom surface,

- a flexible discus wiper positioned between the bottom surface of said first discus plate and the top surface of said second discus plate, and

- a plurality of independent spacers affixed to the bottom surface of said first discus plate and the top surface of said second discus plate, said spacers connecting and separating said discus plates, and being sized and positioned to allow said wiper to be held between said plates.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) The pipe fusion machine of Claim 13, wherein ~~the retaining mechanism further comprises one or more spacers to separate the plates thereof, at least one of which said spacers is removable to permit the removal of said wiper~~removably affixed to said plates so that, when removed from said plates, the wiper may be removed from between said plates.

5. (Currently amended) The pipe fusion machine of Claim 2 14, wherein the pipe sections of the pipes being fused by the pipe fusion machine have corresponding diameters, and wherein the ~~flexible wiper has an inside edge, the diameter of~~the aperture of said flexible discus wiper which is slightly less than the corresponding diameters of said pipe sections of the pipes.

6. (Currently Amended) A pipe cleaner for use with a pipe fusion machine, comprising:

~~(a) a substantially planar, flexible wiper; and~~

~~(b) a retaining mechanism adapted to hold the said wiper.~~

(a) a first discus plate having a top and bottom surface,

(b) a second discus plate having a top and bottom surface,

(c) a flexible discus wiper positioned between the bottom surface of said first discus plate and the top surface of said second discus plate, and

(d) a plurality of independent spacers affixed to the bottom surface of said first discus plate and the top surface of said second discus plate, said spacers connecting and separating said discus plates, and being sized and positioned to allow said wiper to be held between said plates.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) The pipe fusion machine of Claim 76, wherein ~~the retaining mechanism further comprises one or more~~ at least one of said spacers to separate the plates thereof, at least one of which spacers is removable to permit the removal of said wiper is removably affixed to said plates so that when removed from said plate configuration the wiper may be removed from between said plates.

9. (Currently amended) The pipe fusion machine of Claim 6 15, wherein the pipe sections of the pipes being fused by the pipe fusion machine have corresponding diameters, and wherein the flexible wiper ~~has an inside edge, the diameter of the aperture of said flexible discus wiper which is slightly less than the corresponding diameters of said pipe sections of the pipes.~~

10. (Currently amended) A pipe cleaner for use with a pipe fusion machine in cleaning pipe, comprising:

(a) a mounting frame; and

(b) a plurality of spring loaded wipers each comprising a flap and a hollow tube, wherein

- the flaps each have an inner and outer edge being positioned concentrically so that said inner edges form a hole to receive said pipe; and

- said hollow tubes being affixed to each of said flaps near the outer edge thereof.

11. (Currently amended) An improved method for fusing sections of pipe, whereby the improvement comprises cleaning the sections of pipe prior to the fusion of the same by means of a cleaning mechanism ~~comprised of~~ comprising:

~~(a) a flexible wiper; and~~

~~(b) a retaining mechanism adapted to hold said wiper.~~

- a first discus plate having a top and bottom surface,

- a second discus plate having a top and bottom surface,

- a flexible discus wiper positioned between the bottom surface of said first discus plate and the top surface of said second discus plate, and

- a plurality of independent spacers affixed to the bottom surface of said first discus plate and the top surface of said second discus plate, said spacers connecting and separating said discus plates, and being sized and positioned to allow said wiper to be held between said plates.

12. (~~New~~Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein at least one of said spacers is removably affixed to said plates so that, when removed from said plate configuration, the wiper may be removed from between said plates. ~~the retaining mechanism of the cleaning mechanism comprises one or more plates and one or more spacers to separate the said plates, at least one of which spacers is removable to permit the removal of said wiper.~~

13. (Currently amended) The pipe fusion machine of Claim ~~11~~ 16, wherein the pipe sections ~~of the pipes being fused by the pipe fusion machine have corresponding diameters, and wherein the flexible wiper has an inside edge, the diameter of the aperture of said flexible discus wiper which is slightly less than the corresponding diameters of said pipe sections of the pipes.~~

14. (New) The pipe fusion machine of claim 2, wherein the flexible wiper comprises a disk having an aperture therethrough, the circumference of said aperture being defined by the inside edge of said disk.

15. (New) The pipe fusion machine of claim 6, wherein the flexible wiper comprises a disk having an aperture therethrough, the circumference of said aperture being defined by the inside edge of said disk.

16. (New) The pipe fusion machine of claim 11, wherein the flexible wiper comprises a disk having an aperture therethrough, the circumference of said aperture being defined by the inside edge of said disk.